



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa Fishing Report

## Conservation and Recreation



### [Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of October 5.](#)

This weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys and county and state parks staff. For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

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## **NORTHWEST**

### Black Hawk Lake

Surface water temperature is 64 degrees. Water levels are near the crest of the spillway. **Bluegill** - Good: Pick up bluegill just about anywhere along the shoreline in 2- to 5-feet of water. Use a small jig tipped with live bait or a small piece of crawler fished below a bobber off the floating fishing pier, the west stone pier, and the inlet bridge. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a jig with a minnow in 2- to 6-feet of water along Ice House Point, the floating dock and the stone piers in Town Bay. **Walleye** - Fair: Use live bait fished along the Ice House Point shoreline and the rock piles near Cottonwood Point and in the east basin. Expect walleye fishing to pick up near shore as water temperatures continue to cool. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers and cut bait fished on the bottom near the floating dock, Ice House Point, and the rock piles near Cottonwood Point and the east basin. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use topwater lures, twisters, or live bait to catch largemouth bass just about anywhere along the shoreline.

### Brushy Creek Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler in 5- to 15-feet of water. Drift near deep structure, drop-offs and weed lines. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a small piece of crawler or minnow on a jig in 10- to 15-feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Throw topwater lures, weedless baits, spinners and plastic worms along weed lines, near cover and wood structure. Fish deeper for larger fish. Pick up small fish in the shallows. **Muskellunge** - Fair.

### Storm Lake (including Little Storm Lake)

Surface water temperatures are in the low to mid 60's. Storm Lake has a daily limit of 3 walleye and all 17- to 22-inch walleye must be released; no more than one walleye longer than 22 inches may be taken per day. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye activity will increase as water temperatures continue to drop. Use a minnow or leach fished below a bobber in shallower areas near shore. Some action may still be in deeper water - troll shad raps or drift crawlers on the edges of the dredge cuts around the lake. **White Bass** - Fair: Use crankbaits or live bait fished from shore and in the dredge cuts.

### Swan Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Try areas with rocky structure and along weed lines in 2- to 6-feet of water near the jetties, the fish house and the dam. Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler or minnow under a bobber. Expect 6- to 9-inch fish.

### Yellow Smoke Park Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills can reach 9 inches or more. Look for bluegills in 5- to 10-feet of water near the arm north of the swim beach, the flooded timber near the southwest shoreline, and the coves on the south shore. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or crawlers on the bottom in 5- to 10-feet of water.

Surface water temperatures in area lakes are in the mid 60's. With cooler temperatures comes increased feeding activity; expect good shore fishing action as water temperatures continue to drop. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

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### Clear Lake

The water temperature is 60 degrees. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Drift a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler or cut bait in 8- to 10-feet of water until you find fish. Try also near the rock reefs. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig and minnow near the rock reefs. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a small jig or minnow near the vegetation in 3- to 5-feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait or a live chub on the windward side of the lake.

### Crystal Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small piece of crawler under a slip bobber near the dredge cut.

### Rice Lake

Walleye - Good: Walleyes are biting on a variety of baits. With the clear water, the best bite is during low light periods.

### Silver Lake (Worth)

Largemouth Bass - Good: Largemouth bass are biting on a variety of baits. **Yellow Perch** – Fair.

For information in the north central area, contact the Clear Lake Fish and Wildlife office at 641-357-3517.

## NORTHEAST

### Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels are low. Use caution when backing boats down boat ramps. Trailers going off the ends of the ramps have been reported. **Walleye** - Good: Troll main channel or deeper holes and along current breaks. Use a jig tipped with a minnow or twister tail. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use a hook with a dead chub or crawler. Try also chicken liver, dead chubs and nightcrawlers around brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a hook tipped with a minnow in eddies below dams and backwaters around brush piles. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use crawdad crankbaits or spinnerbaits along rocky shorelines and substrates.

### **Decorah District Streams**

All stream stockings are unannounced in October. All streams continue to be stocked. Many streams run through wildlife management areas where hunting is allowed. Wear bright clothing when not stalking a trout. Trout streams are in good condition. Call 563-927-5736 for current catchable trout stocking locations. **Brook Trout** - Good: A variety of small mayflies are hatching mid-afternoon. Use a dry fly for insects hatching off the water surface. Use a nymph or scud dropper for subsurface critters. **Brown Trout** - Good: Fall rains will put the browns in a feeding frenzy. Use a hopper pattern in pastured or open areas. In wooded areas in the morning, use #22-24 trico patterns. In the evening, use #18-20 blue wing olive patterns. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Freshly stocked trout are hitting a variety of lures and baits. Drift a feathered spinner along an undercut bank.

### Lake Hendricks

Lake Hendricks is an electric motor only lake. The bite should improve with the return of cooler weather. Water will be shut off sometime this week. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Troll over

rock mounds with a jig tipped with minnow or spinnerbait. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try topwater lures along the edge of a vegetation. Slowly troll over rock reefs for fish seeking structure. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use a hook tipped with a worm or chicken liver. **Bluegill**- Good: Find bluegills in deeper water. Use a small hook tipped with small piece of worm.

### Lake Meyer

Lake Meyer is an electric motor only lake. The bite should pick up with cooler weather. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small hook tipped with a piece of worm under a bobber near jetties in the evening. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie suspended near submersed structure. Use a spinner or jig with bright colored twister tail. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try a jig tipped with plastic twister or worm or a spinner near structure.

### Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

The Upper Iowa is stable but low. Be prepared to walk through riffles. Fly fishers, watch for evening hatches of white and grey mayflies. Flying ants are hatching mid-day. Fall is a good time to use streamers or minnow patterns for bass, trout, and walleye. **Walleye** - Good: Drift a jig tipped with a twister tail or worm through a deeper hole or along a current break. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try jigs tipped with worms or crankbaits imitating crawdads in deeper holes and along rocky shorelines. **Rock Bass** - Fair: Use jigs tipped with worms along rocky shorelines.

### Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Another shot of rain should bring on the bite and bump water levels a little. **Northern Pike**- Good: Use a steel leader tipped with 1/4 oz. jig tipped with natural colored plastic to a 3 inch jerk bait fished around tributaries or brush piles. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use jigs tipped with plastic tails or crawfish imitations in the current breaks or near rock ledges. **Walleye** - Good: Drift a jig tipped with a twister tail or worm through a deeper hole or along a current break. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Catch a catfish from shore with a hook tipped with a crawler. Evening is best.

### Volga Lake

Panfishing has been hit or miss. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Troll the deeper areas for suspended crappie; use small jig tipped with a minnow. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are hitting jigs tipped with a nightcrawler or twister tail. Try a topwater lure in the evening as fish come in shallow to feed. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small hook tipped with a piece of worm under a bobber along rocky shorelines. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver and cheese baits fished on the bottom. Catfish are more active in the evening.

Chance of rain likely Friday and Saturday. Fall weather is in the air with temperature highs in the low 70's and 50's for lows in the forecast. Area streams and rivers are low. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

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### Brinker Lake

Anglers are catching a good number of largemouth bass and crappie; morning bite is best. Under the Hwy 218 bridge has been most successful for crappie. **Largemouth Bass** - Good:

Use imitation shad lures. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a crappie minnow under a bobber at various depths.

### Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Topwater baits have been good for smallmouth during the early morning and late evening hours. Anglers have been catching some flathead catfish near the downtown Waterloo area also. **Walleye** - Good: Use a jig and plastic tail tipped with half a nightcrawler on the downstream sandbar drop-offs or woody structure as the river is low. **Smallmouth Bass**- Good: Cast spinnerbaits, crankbaits and topwater lures along rip-rap shorelines and woody structure. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Use artificial baits.

### Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

Smallmouth Bass - Fair: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rip-rap shorelines and woody structure. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig and plastic tail tipped with half a nightcrawler on the downstream sandbar drop-offs or woody structure as the river is low.

### Plainfield

Largemouth Bass - Good: Artificial baits, particularly spinnerbaits, have been the best. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Cast jigs for some good yellow bass action.

### Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)

Walleye - Fair: Use a jig and plastic tail tipped with half a nightcrawler on the downstream sandbar drop-offs or woody structure as the river is low. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rip-rap shorelines and woody structure.

### Three Rivers Pond

Largemouth Bass - Good: Artificial baits, particularly spinnerbaits, have been the best. Early morning and late evening hours are best.

### Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

Northern Pike - Excellent: Cast and retrieve large bucktail spinner baits near structure or float a live chub or shiner under a bobber in the deeper pools in Buchanan County and upstream into Bremer County. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig and plastic tail tipped with half a nightcrawler on the downstream sandbar drop-offs or woody structure as the river is low. **Smallmouth Bass**- Fair: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rip-rap shorelines and woody structure.

Anglers are catching walleye, smallmouth bass and northern pike on the interior rivers. There have been good reports on largemouth bass and some crappies being caught on the area Black Hawk County Lakes. Best reports have been northern pike on the Wapsipinicon River. Trout streams remain in excellent condition. Call the N.E. Iowa district office at 563-927-3276 for more information.

## **MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

### Mississippi River Pool 9

River level at Lansing has risen to 8.9 feet and is predicted to rise about a foot near 10.2 feet. Water temperature is 66 degrees. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Some larger bluegills are being



picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with worm fished under a slip bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Drum are still being caught in the swifter current areas along main channel borders. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Smallmouth fishing is improving with reports of many 2-3 pound fish being caught with a worm harness along the riprap near the Black Hawk bridge. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a little slower presentation as the water temperature is falling. One eye jigs or bait-rig off the bottom has been effective. **Yellow Perch** - Good: The fall perch bite is picking up. Use small jigs tipped with worm in backwaters with slight flow. **Northern Pike** - Good: Try soft plastics in areas with slight current in shallow backwaters. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Use live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use light colored jigs or hook tipped with crappie minnows in backwater side-channels.

### **Mississippi River Pool 10**

Lynxville water level has risen another foot to 16.2 feet and is predicted to rise around 2 feet. Water temperature is 60 degrees at the lock and dam. **Bluegill** - Good: Some larger bluegills are being picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with worm fished under a slip bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Drum are still being caught in the swifter current areas along main channel borders. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Use live bait or artificials along rocky shorelines with good current. Best bite is towards evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a little slower presentation as the water temperature is falling. One eye jigs or bait-rig off the bottom has been effective. **Yellow Perch** - Good: The fall perch bite is picking up. Use small jigs tipped with worm in backwaters with slight flow. **Northern Pike** - Good: Try soft plastics in areas with slight current in shallow backwaters. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Use live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use light colored jigs or hook tipped with crappie minnows in backwater side channels.

### **Mississippi River Pool 11**

Mississippi River at Guttenberg has risen a foot to 7.5 feet and is predicted to rise 2 feet by end of next week. Water temperature is 60 degrees at the Lock and Dam. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Some larger bluegills are being picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with worm fished under a slip bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Drum are still being caught in the swifter current areas along main channel borders. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Use live bait or artificials along rocky shorelines with good current. Best bite is towards evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a little slower presentation as the water temperature is falling. One eye jigs or bait-rig off the bottom has been effective. **Yellow Perch** - Good: The fall perch bite is picking up. Use small jigs tipped with worm in backwaters with slight flow. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use soft plastics in areas with slight current in shallow

backwaters. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use light colored jigs or hook tipped with crappie minnows in backwater side-channels. Bertom Lake area has been picking up.

Upper Mississippi water levels are forecast to rise about 2 feet this week. Boaters should still use caution to avoid dropping off the ends of ramps during low water conditions. Water clarity will diminish with localized rain this week. Cooler temperatures will have fish moving toward their winter holes. Water temperature has fallen into the low to mid 60 degrees this week.

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### Mississippi River Pool 12

Levels will rise slightly in the next few days. Current water levels are 6.4 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 8.9 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity is good. Water temperature is near 69 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms and stink bait; move often if you do not find biting fish. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker and worm rig works best. **White Crappie** - Fair: Fall is the best time to catch crappies on the Mississippi River. Look for them along log jams in backwater sloughs. **Walleye** - Good: The wing dam fishing is well underway on the Mississippi River. Some anglers are using worm rigs while others are throwing crankbaits on the dams. Floating weeds are being a real hindrance at times. **Bluegill** - Slow: Find bluegills along the channel borders and in tree piles in large sloughs. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Pull worm rigs near rocky habitats. Lots of flatheads have been caught this year. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Throw spinners or small crankbaits around rocky areas with strong current in the evenings. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouths have pulled out of the shallow backwater areas and are on trees and sandy shoals often chasing minnows. Lots of anglers are slow rolling spinner baits through the weed pads **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Yellow perch are being caught in backwater areas on minnows by anglers fishing for bluegills or crappies.

### Mississippi River Pool 13

Water level is 6.8 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam. Look for levels to rise slightly this week. Water clarity is good. Water temperature is 70 degrees in the main channel. Try to remove any vegetation off your trailers. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use flashy white lures. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try worm rigs and stink bait above log jams and rock piles; let the smell of the bait flow into the log piles. Move often if you don't find fish. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use egg sinker and worm rigs. Drum bite in all types of river conditions. **Walleye** - Good: Most anglers are fishing on the wing dams using worm rigs. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Throw crank baits or spinners near rock piles with strong current. **Bluegill** - Slow: Use worm rigs in log piles in larger backwater and sloughs. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Small flathead catfish are hitting on worms; mostly by people fishing for channel cats. Try large live bait fished in the evening hours for bigger flatheads. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Some fish are on weed edges while others are in logs in deeper sloughs. Use scum frogs and other frog imitations. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Fall is a great time to fish for crappies. Use small minnows in the woody snags in backwater sloughs. The bite slowed down during the warm spell, but crappies are expected to turn on soon.

### Mississippi River Pool 14

Water levels up a bit and presently are 6.2 feet at Fulton, 10.2 feet at Camanche and 5.2 feet at LeClaire. Water clarity is good. Water temperature is 70 degrees in the main channel. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass had moved out of the large shallow areas into deeper slough habitats. Use spinnerbaits along the channel weed lines. **Freshwater Drum**- Excellent: Freshwater drum are biting on worm rigs. Catch drum in nearly all moderate current areas. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worm rigs and prepared stink baits fished close to shoreline snags or along rock lines. **Walleye** - Good: Most anglers are chasing walleyes on the wing dams this time of year. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Some anglers are trot lining flathead catfish using large bullheads as bait. Flathead are most active during the night and evening hours. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try along rock piles with current. **Bluegill**- Fair: Use worms and bobbers along vegetation lines.

### Mississippi River Pool 15

Levels are up a bit around 6.4 feet at Rock Island. Expect water to rise slightly this week. Water clarity is decent. Water temperature is near 70 degrees in the main channel. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink bait along the rock piles near Campbells and Arsenal Island. Move often if fish are not hitting. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum bite well this time of year. Put them on ice immediately if you are going to clean them. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Use large live bait fished near shore during the night and evening hours. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Find smallmouths along rock lines with strong current. **White Bass** - Fair: A few white bass are being caught in the tailwater reaches on white twister tails.

The channel temperature has been near 70 degrees. Fishing conditions are good throughout the district. Aquatic vegetation is floating in the River, so do your best to clean your boats and trailers and not transport vegetation to other bodies of water. If you have any angling questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

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### Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities is 6.37 feet. Tailwater stage has risen slightly over the past few days. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try dip baits, crawlers or shad around the mouth of Sunset Marina, mouth of the Rock River, and around brush piles along the side channels and main channel. **Bluegill** - Good: Use waxworms under a bobber along brush piles in Sunset Marina and the Andalusia Island complex. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try fishing with three-way rigs with crawlers or casting crankbaits.

### Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine is 5.21 feet and has risen slightly the past few days. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try worms, cut shad, or dip baits in brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels or wing dams. **White Crappie** - Fair: Try jigs and minnows or minnows under a bobber around brush piles in the backwaters and side channels. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits or pull three-way rigs with crawlers. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters. Use



worms or waxworms under a bobber along brush piles in Big Timber(The Breaks) or Cleveland Slough.

### Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 5.66 feet at Lock and Dam 17 above New Boston and has risen slightly the past few days. **Channel Catfish** - Use dip baits, shad or nightcrawlers around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - No Report: Use jigs and minnows or minnows under a bobber in the backwaters and flowing side channels around brush piles. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits to the wing dams or pull three-way rigs with crawlers. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast crankbaits or pitch plastics around riprap shorelines with some current.

### Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 2.78 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and has risen slightly over the past few days. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try dip baits, nightcrawlers, or cut shad in brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - No Report: Use jigs and minnows or minnows under a bobber in the side channels and backwaters around brush piles.

River stages have risen slightly the past few days. Main channel water temperature is 68-70 degrees and water clarity is fair. River stages are forecasted to rise slightly over the next few days. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

## SOUTHEAST

### Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is still holding at 70 degrees. Water clarity is at 36 inches. **Bluegill**- Slow: They are still out deep; waiting for cooler weather. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Crappies are waiting for cooler water temperatures before moving into shallow water.

### Lake Darling

Water temperature has fallen to 70 degrees. The water clarity is 25 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: A few smaller fish are being caught in shallow. The bigger bass are out around the deeper habitat. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Last weekend anglers were starting to catch some crappies in shallow water; need some cooler weather to really bring them in. **Bluegill**- Fair: Bluegills are starting to bite a little better now with a few more coming in shallow.

### Lake Geode

Getting closer to starting to drain the lake; will still be a while yet. Water temperature is 70 degrees and water clarity is 38 inches. One more planktonic algae bloom has started before fall weather arrives. Very few anglers were out this week. **Bluegill** – Slow. **Black Crappie** – Slow.

### Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is at 69 degrees. The water is fairly clear at 48 inches. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Crappies are sticking it out in the deeper water; very few are in shallow. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass have worked their way into shallow water. Work the edges of the weed beds in 3 to 4 foot of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are in and around the edges of the weed beds in 3 to 4 foot of water. Still plenty out in the deeper water, too.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

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### Central Park Lake

The lake has been drained for a renovation project.

### Coralville Reservoir

As of Oct. 5th, the lake level is 684.8' and is rising about an inch per day. The water temperature is about 70 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use jigs and minnows along rock bluffs or over brush piles. **White Crappie** - Fair: Try jigs and minnows along rock bluffs or over brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Slow troll or drift cut bait along the channel, particularly from Macbride and upstream to 965/380. **White Bass** - Slow: Throw jigs or crankbaits to windblown banks.

### Kent Park Lake

The lake has been drained for a renovation project.

### Lake Macbride

All motors may be used at no wake speed (5 mph). Water temperatures this week were in the upper 60's. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small worms around rock or brush. **Walleye** - Slow. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use jigs and minnows over brush piles to catch 10- to 12-inch crappie.

### Otter Creek Lake

Yellow Bass - Fair: Cast spinners or jigs or use small worms or minnows.

### Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is still 10 feet low due to lack of rain following the draw-down project. The main boat ramp is usable, but is still shallow; use caution. Four wheel drive vehicles are strongly recommended.

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

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### Lake Miami

Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs around brush piles and the standing timber. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use rubber worms and crankbaits around the fishing jetties and brush piles.

### Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Try jig tipped with live bait in the flooded timber. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Walleye** - Slow: Use crankbaits along the dam and other rip-rapped areas. Try also a minnow and bobber. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with live bait in structure in

4-to 6-feet of water. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits or crankbaits along the shorelines and around the jetties. Use a rubber worm among the vegetation and around deep structure.

### Lake Wapello

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try crankbaits or spinnerbaits around the brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use jigs tipped with live bait around submerged structure. Sorting may be needed for larger fish. **Black Bullhead** - Slow: Try nightcrawlers fished on the lake bottom in about 6 feet of water.

### Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 903.73 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before transporting to another water body. **White Crappie** - Fair: Troll crankbaits over submerged points and rock piles. Use small crankbaits that mimic gizzard shad as the crappies are suspended over these areas. Crappie will start to move shallow as the water cools. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use nightcrawlers or cut bait in areas where recent rains are flowing into the lake. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Troll crankbaits or blade baits around rock piles or vertically jig in these same areas. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits around submerged points; look for areas with a variation in depths. Try also trolling nightcrawler rigs.

### Red Haw Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler and a bobber in areas along the shoreline with structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try rubber worms or crankbaits in areas with rip rap or other types of structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers or chicken liver around the fishing jetties.

Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

## **SOUTHWEST**

### Big Creek Lake

Walleye - Fair: Troll live bait or cast or troll shallow diving crank baits on the upper end of the lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use minnows or panfish jigs near riprap on the jetties for 9-to 10.5-inch crappies.

### Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

White Bass - Fair: Cast jigs and twister tails or shallow diving, shad imitating crankbaits in the Red Rock tailwaters. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink baits and cut baits. **White Bass** - Good: Find good white bass fishing in the river with the low water conditions. Cast spinners or twister tail jigs in current breaks, sandbar drop-offs and below the dams.

### Don Williams Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Drift or troll tube jigs and twister or paddle tail jigs 3- to 8-feet down in 10- to 20-feet of water. The middle section of the lake has been the most consistent. Anglers will have to fish through the younger fish that are around 5 inches to find the older 9 inch fish.

### Hickory Grove Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Bluegill are biting near shoreline vegetation and sunken brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass are being caught off of main lake points. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers fishing near the rocks on the jetties and on the deep side of the island are picking up some crappies.

### Red Rock Reservoir

Channel Catfish - Good: Use dead shad above the mile long bridge in 6- to 12-feet of water.

### Saylorville Reservoir

Channel Catfish - Good: Drift cut creek chubs in the upper end of the reservoir above and just below the mile long bridge.

Fall is a good time to target crappies. Channel catfishing on the reservoirs and the Des Moines River is good. For information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers, contact Andy Otting or Ben Dodd at 515-432-2823.

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### **Cold Springs District Farm Ponds**

Pond fishing has picked up with cooler water temperatures. Always get permission to fish privately owned farm ponds. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass are active and easy to catch. Cast a variety of spinner type baits or plastics for fun [catch and release fishing](#). **Bluegill** - Good: Cast small jigs or crawlers under a bobber to structure and along the shoreline. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast minnows under a slip bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait around structure.

### Greenfield Lake

Greenfield Lake has a good fish population. The lake is 3 feet low. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Fish any tree pile and along the creek channel to find fish up to 12 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift crawlers to catch bluegills up to 8.5 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast the shoreline and around jetties to find largemouth bass. Greenfield has a good number of 12- to 16- inch bass.

### Lake Anita

Lake Anita will provide good fishing this year. Find a large crappie population averaging 9 inches and bluegills up to 9.5 inches. **Black Crappie** - Good: Slowly troll or drift small jigs tipped with power bait. Fish are 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegills up to 9.5 inches with small jigs tipped power bait or nightcrawlers on steep drop offs near the creek channel and in deep tree piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Find bass around underwater reefs and vegetation edges. Fish are all sizes.

### Meadow Lake

Meadow lake bluegills have gained size and body condition after the mid-summer drawdown in 2016. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find deeper tree piles and vertical jig to catch crappies up to 12 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift the open part of the lake for bluegills up to 9 inches.

### Prairie Rose Lake

Expect to catch quality size bluegills. The crappies stocked in 2014 will reach an acceptable size to harvest in 2017. The lake also supports a good population of channel catfish and the

largemouth bass will provide good [catch and release fishing](#). **Bluegill** - Fair: Slow drift crawlers to find bluegills up to 9 inches. , **Largemouth Bass** - Good: There are many 12 inch bass in the lake that will provide fun [catch and release fishing](#). **Black Crappie** - Fair: A few 8 inch black crappie are being picked up drifting or trolling along the dam.

### Viking Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Cast the shoreline and brush piles to catch largemouth of all sizes. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use liver in the campground arm of the lake. Anglers have an opportunity to catch large channel catfish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Vertical jig deeper brush piles for black crappie up to 10 inches. **Bluegill** - Good: Drifting has been good for 7 inch bluegill.

Water temperatures are in the mid 60's around the S.W. district. Fish are more active now with cooler water temperatures, so get out to your favorite lake for good fall fishing. For more information, call the Cold Springs District Office at 712-769-2587.

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### Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with spinnerbaits or finesse plastics fished along cedar tree brush piles or stake beds **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 8 inches using small jigs along the dam, fishing jetties, or fishing piers. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 7.5 inches with nightcrawlers under a bobber or small jigs fished along weed lines in bays or shallow cedar tree brush piles. **Channel Catfish**- Fair: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught with cut bait fished along windblown points.

### Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with spinnerbaits or finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with small jigs or nightcrawlers fished along main lake points and fishing jetties. **Walleye**- Fair: Catch walleyes up to 22 inches using jigs tipped with a minnow fished along main lake points.

### Summit Lake

Black Crappie - Slow: Catch black crappie up to 9 inches with small jigs fished along the dam or HWY 25 bridge. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Catch largemouth bass up to 15 inches using spinnerbaits fished along cedar tree brush piles or rocky shoreline areas. **Bluegill** - Slow: Catch bluegill up to 7.5 inches with small jigs tipped with a nightcrawler fished along the dam or weed lines.

### Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches with spinnerbaits fished near rock piles or cedar tree brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 9 inches using jigs tipped with a minnow fished along the dam, fishing jetties and rock piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with jigs tipped with a nightcrawler fished near rock piles. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Catch yellow perch up to 9 inches using jigs tipped with a minnow or nightcrawler fished along weed lines or shallow



bays. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye of all sizes have been caught with crankbaits or jigs tipped with a minnow fished near rock piles or along the dam.

Water temperature in Mount Ayr district lakes is in the mid to upper 60's. The district includes Page, Taylor, Adams, Union, Ringgold, Decatur, Clarke and Madison counties. For more information, contact the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.

## MISSOURI RIVER

### Missouri River (Sioux City to Little Sioux)

Flathead Catfish - Fair: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait (bluegills, bullheads, and green sunfish) off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished just off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cut bait and dip baits along wing dikes, brush piles and the rock revetment.

### Missouri River (Little Sioux to Council Bluffs)

Flathead Catfish - Fair: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait (bluegill, bullhead, and green sunfish) off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished just off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cut bait and dip baits along the wing dikes, brush piles and the rock revetment.

### Missouri River (Council Bluffs to Missouri State Line)

Flathead Catfish - Fair: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait (bluegill, bullhead, green sunfish) off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use chicken livers, worms, cut bait and dip baits along the wing dikes, brush piles and the rock revetment.

The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska is at 22.53 ft. /36,200 cfs./65 degrees Fahrenheit (water temperature dropped 1 degree from last week). The Missouri River is up 0.61 ft from last week. Anglers are mainly catching catfish species (channels, flatheads and blue cats). Fishing continues to be fair to good overall for all catfish species.